

THE UNION LEAGUE.

GRAND DEMONSTRATION OF THE PEOPLE.

Speeches by Gen. Cochrane, Gen. Wool, James

T. Brady, Governor Wright, and

Andrew Johnson.

The announcement that Andrew Johnson and Gov. Wright would speak at the Academy of Music on Saturday evening, at 8 o'clock, filled it to overflowing nearly an hour before that time. In the boxes and a great part of the parquet were many ladies, but beyond doors masses of men crowded every square foot of space within the walls of the building. The audience was inspiring. Magnificent banners overhanging the stage, which was gilded by the presence of the fairies and the nobles in the land. In one of the boxes were Secretary Chase and Welles.

The house being completely filled soon after 7 o'clock, Gen. Wright, after a few complimentary remarks, called out: "Gen. John Cochrane, asking if he did not look all right."

Gen. COCHRANE was received with hearty cheers. He said: "I do not know, fellow-citizens, whether a look at you is a satisfaction to me. [Applause.] When I left the army at the front I did not expect to witness and greet such a fire in the rear. [Cheering.] Peace has its name as war has its name, but the magnetic relation existing between the army of darkness and the army of soldiers in this war is an influence which will carry the country forward to its victory and its success. [Cheers.] I am introduced, I presume, fellow-citizens, merely as a premonitory symptom this evening. [Long-cries.] I wish this might give you some evidence of that which is in store for you—a nation that will thrill your blood, of a present that will elevate your hearts, of a present imported from fields of battle, where dissolution has turned its horrid crest to display to you here the image of war, show to you the prospects of an approaching triumph, and teach you that in the instance, whether immediate or far removed, victory and triumph and success are to crown our efforts. [Cheering.] It is for the great city of New-York to pronounce its judgment upon the state of the country, and when that city speaks, its echoes reverberate through the whole land, and they find a home in the very core of the heart of your army now awaiting the signal for advance. [Applause.] I am not to make a speech to you. I have been where action was paramount. Let action prevail here, following immediately upon the language which is being uttered this evening, and there can be no question what the result shall be. I thank you for the attention you have shown to me. I greet you well for the common cause in which we are all engaged, and respectfully and courteously make my bow. [Cheers.]

Gen. WOOL, who was present with his staff, was then introduced. He was greeted with three times three. He said:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I appreciate this reception, not on my own account, but I believe it is more for my country at the present time than for myself.

It is very cheering to see so many patriotic faces here, and more especially the patriotic faces of the ladies. [Applause.] I am sure we are all right when they are present with us. I rely as much on their patriotism as I do upon that of the gentlemen, and perhaps a little more. [Laughter and applause.] For I have known some traitors among the gentlemen of the North, but I have not found any among the ladies. Their efforts have been felt and experienced throughout the army most effectually, and my only surprise is that, after all their efforts, there are so many traitors from the army. However, I hope for better times. I look to Union; without it there can be no help for it. Our country is in a perilous condition, and it requires the efforts of all the patriots we have in the North, East and West to restore us to what we once were—a prosperous country, with an empire extending from the frozen regions of the North to the burning sands of the South—with a population of over thirty millions, enjoying a prosperity unparalleled in the history of nations, every town and city and small-growing river as a city, magic, and none so prosperous as that part of the country which is now in a state of rebellion. How is it now? A deadly contest exists, and without cause or justification. The South had no cause whatever—none. They commenced at a moment when we were more prostrate than at any other time, and when the Government was in their own hands, except the President; the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Supreme Court, were in their hands. I am not prepared to make you a speech; I did not understand that I was to be called upon, for I knew you would have a number of very eloquent gentlemen, who will be able to discuss the state of the country much better than I can. I will simply say—which is, I suppose, all you want to know—that I am opposed to the separation of the country. [Applause.] I am opposed to all compromises. [Great cheering.] I am opposed to all lines of demarcation [applause], and I will never be satisfied, so far as I am concerned, until we shall have "the country, the whole country, and nothing but the country" [cheers]; and no man—and I am sure none of the ladies will say otherwise—who goes for less, can be a friend to his country; if there is one, the sooner he goes South the better. [Good! applause.] I thank you for the honor you have conferred upon me. [Great applause.]

The Union Glee Club sang "The Star Spangled Banner" with fine effect.

The hour of commencement having arrived, Mayor O'DOYKE called the meeting to order, and, on motion of Judge BONNEY, the "Loyal League of Union Citizens" was organized, with Gen. Scott as President.

The MAYOR then introduced as the Chairman of the meeting JAMES T. BRADY, who said:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: It is hardly necessary for me to say how much pride I feel in being permitted to occupy the position to which I have been assigned this night. If I had any vanity to gratify, the cup of its enjoyment would be full to overflow—so I feel, while I stand in your presence, what each and all of you ought to feel, that we have grown a part of history in the events of to-night. [Cheers.]

It is my simple duty on this occasion, as the presiding officer, to occupy that place which the gray dawn presents in the coming of the great orb of day. I am but the feeble, glistening forerunner of the brilliant eloquence by which you are to be gratified to-night. And yet, with the privilege that belongs to a presiding officer, I may for a few minutes, and only for a few minutes, indulge in some expressions of that sentiment which pervades this assemblage, for it is not the man who speaks that is the orator at a time like this—it is the flowing inspirations that he catches from those who hear him. [Applause.] On the banks of Southern rivers, at this moment when I address you, our fellow-countrymen, our fellow-townsmen, the beloved of the hearts of women who are here, lie down to mortal sleep in the dark mud for the poor repose that the soldier of his country may enjoy. We in our comfortable abodes are horrified by hearing from the lips of men who profess to be American citizens but don't deserve the name [applause]—we are horrified to hear the language of discouragement which should be confined to gin shop extorting to the saloons and parlors of our metropolis. I for one, and you for many, feel that we ought to encourage the poor soldiers that are placed in peril of their lives in this great struggle. I cannot look except with contempt and hate, and I desire no association, political or personal, with any man of the North who, at this momentous period in our history, can think of anything except the suppression of this rebellion by all the power of the people. [Tremendous cheers.] I had the honor a few evenings since to address my fellow-citizens at the Cooper Institute. Of course I knew that the position which I took would be the subject of repeated comment. But if there be any young man within the range of my voice who looks forward to the time when, trembling, he may make his debut before a popular assembly, to speak on public subjects, I want to say to him that there is but one rule for any man who desires to address his fellow-beings, and that is right. [Applause.] I have read, for I delight to read such observations about my course as are reported. It is nothing to listen to the praise of friends; it is the choice of love that a man bears in his infancy for the darling lips of his mother. It is nothing to listen to praise, but it is wise to attend to criticism. If I know myself, the most important duty that I perform for my own comfort is to see that no honest man finds fault with my course; I must say, and I am a little afraid to say it,

that my gallantry has been assailed in reference to my last speech. I did say, and I say it again—although I have the honor to address loyal ladies in this magnificent assemblage—that I have heard in the privacy of social intercourse sentiments expressed by Northern women which my gallantry as a man would not permit me to endorse, but which were deceiving that sex from whom men derive their greatest encouragement in the hour of peril, whether it belongs to the battle-field or the bedside. Oneious editor thought I was very uncharitable, and an editor so, too, but who understands me much better, thought I was a little too gallant. All I have to say to both of them is that my country is in peril. When the Spartan mother gave a shield to her son and said, "Return with it or on it!" there was a lesson of history only equalled and surpassed by that other Spartan mother, who, when her son told her his sword was too short, said, "Advance but one step toward your enemy, and it will be long enough for your purpose." [Applause.] I know that the loyal women of the North agree with the sentiment which I have thus feebly expressed, and I know that all the men in this assemblage, and would to God that all the men in my country would agree to that motto propounded in the day of the exchequer of an old English aristocrat, who honored and loved the land of his birth—pro rege regis: pro patria reges—for the king often, for the country always. [Cheers.] I am told in whiners through the streets, in the reports which good-natured friends always bring to you when they think you are misguided—I have been told that it is said that I, who never belonged to any party but the Democratic party, have deserted my party. I shall not take occasion now to answer that; but there will come a time, and shortly, in this town, when I will do it. [Applause.] But I have this to say, that if I adhere to the Democratic party is to be purchased by turning my back upon the land of my birth and upon the hopes of that land in the day of her darkness and peril. I despise it. [Pathetic and prolonged cheering.] "Three cheers for Brady!" They told me that some gentlemen in New-York are adhering to the preservation of this war, because the administration is corrupt. I would like to assure you, if I had the time ["Go on!" "Go on!"] by telling you who are the people from whom this objection comes—the pure-minded, disinterested patriots who think that Abraham Lincoln is dishonest. [Applause.] I have seen some names mentioned in that assembly which are highly suggestive to my mind. [Great laughter and applause.] It is perfectly exhilarating to a man who knows how the richards and the actions always associate themselves together in the great affairs of life—I say it is perfectly exhilarating to me to him who belongs to a crew that, in the language of Shakespeare, are the "rock of the nation," coming out of the clutch of submission with an odor that offends every honest nose, and complaining that there is no fresh air in their bosom. [Laughter and cheers.] To all those gentlemen, whether they have occupied the position of Mayor of Albany [rewritten laughter], I would say, in the language of the same great dramatist, "An ounce of gold is worth a pound of feathers." I remember that the City of Cologne, which produces the perfume that no doubt has given fragrance to the handkerchief of many a lady present is not remarkable in itself for any sweet odors that attach to it. But I shall not detain you a moment longer. [Voices—"Go on!" "Go on!"] It is my privilege and my pleasure to have the honor of introducing to you, as the first speaker of this occasion, ex-Senator Wright of Indiana. [Loud applause.]

Ex-Governor WRIGHT said he had two or three principles which he intended to put forth, and which he would take for his government in this hour of his country's trial. And as the President of the meeting had introduced the word Democracy, he would say that true Democracy, while there was a traitor in the land, was war Democracy. [Applause.] He went for no other type of Democracy. This war was now in progress, and it was the duty of loyal men to sustain the Government in this hour of its crisis. That was his first principle. His second was that no act of a temporary ruler in this Administration could hazard the Government. This Government must stand, and that man was not loyal to his country who would hazard his country on account of any dislike to a temporary ruler. The ruler would soon pass away, but the Government would stand. His third proposition was, that if there was any institution or organization, in the way of this Government, that induction had to fall. [Great applause.] In other words, all institutions in this country must give way to the Government, and he who remembered seeing so many of our ships in the Mediterranean, instead of being at home. We began to doubt any man's loyalty at a time like this when he came up to him, and talked about any institution whatever, for if anything was in the way of the Government, in the way of the supremacy of the laws and the maintenance of the Government, he said to him whether it be banks, railroads or Slavery, they all must be put out of the way to uphold the Government. The principle involved in this controversy might be summed up in a few words, by an analogy between the Government and the family. The man who commanded life must set up for himself; he must cast off from those around him, and demonstrate his individuality. Then, if he had neighbors around him who were jealous of him and threw difficulties in the way, he must be able to maintain his individuality against all that surround him; and the third great event in his life was that when he became surrounded with a family, if his son failed to follow the laws and instruction given to him by his father, he must maintain order, or he must have peace within his walls, and there was no hope for him, as the head of the family, unless he did this. We had passed through two of these stages. In the War of the great Revolution we showed our own power and our ability to maintain our individuality as a nation. We showed that we could break off from the mother country, and set up a Government in this New World. Then came the second great crisis, when we had to show the nations of the earth that we had power to maintain our nationality against not only Great Britain, but all other nations, in our own way. Now we had reached the third epoch—the greatest event in the life of the nation. He had been met in the Courts of Europe, everywhere, by doubts as to the power of a Republican Government to maintain itself against internal rebellion. We must show them now our ability to maintain our nationality. The principle of Secession undermines the whole structure of our Government. If Mr. Davis was sincere, and the North had to choose between that kind of Government and the Government of our fathers, because the South would either subdue the North, or the North would subdue the South. The war would end when three millions of poor white men in the South understood this controversy, and they were leaning toward the South. Some said that the only way to keep the North and South together was to preserve Slavery. If there were any who believed that, he would recommend them to go into the Union army at once, for if it was sent on much longer, that would only be a few stumps of negroes left in the country. [Laughter and applause.] He had no idea that any foreign nation would interfere with large armed forces organized, but, in his opinion, when the war received itself into a guerrilla way that moment these would be foreign intervention; France and England would compel the guerrillas to stop. Mr. Douglass had said that the rebellion was concocted in Buchanan's Administration. He thought, too, when he remembered seeing so many of our ships in the Mediterranean, instead of being at home. He would not object to see one hundred thousand slaves sent over to the South, and a million of negroes the other, if only the country could be saved. He was setting fast in favor of negro troops. He believed to this day that there was not a politician in New-York who in twelve months would not swear that he was always in favor of putting a gun in the hands of the negro. [Laughter and applause.] There was not a body of Democrats in the North that dare lay down any principle for this war. Gov. Wright read an extract from a letter written by the Consul General at Frankfort on the Main, wherein it was stated that large quantities of our wounded soldiers, and sick, were collected there, and that in thirty days 25,000 men could be sent to join the Union army—men who had served in the Indian and Crimean war. [Loud cheers.] We had to bring back the manhood of the nation and the patriotism of our fathers. We had had too much prosperity, and we had not yet done our whole duty as loyal men. He pointed to the benevolent institutions of the North as one of the great sources of its strength. In conclusion, he alluded to a visit to a room in the Vatican at Rome, upon the ceiling of which the flags of all nations were to be seen. He looked them over from the oldest to the youngest. When he saw the Stars and Stripes he asked himself the question why it was that our fathers were the first to put stars on their flag? The only answer that could be given was that our fathers looked up to God for help, that they saw the stars and planted them in our banner. [Loud and long applause.]

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on with a view to interfere with the institution of Slavery. The only principle on which our rulers could be guided was that all institutions in this country that stand in the way of the Government must be got out of the way. There was no institution that was paramount to the Government. They said that the negroes would monopolize the labor of this country. What was meant when it was said that the policy of this Government was to make the black man our equal? Was there any male word by which he could perform any more labor free than slave? The policy of the Government was to carry out the Confiscation act in its letter and spirit, and as the army went South, to confiscate the property of every rebel. The proceeds to be taken to colonize the black men when they are free. [Great applause.] A great deal was said about the Proclamation. He regarded that simply as an experiment. There was never any great lack demonstrated that it was not first necessary to make an experiment. He regarded the Proclamation as coming from Abraham Lincoln as President, but as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy. He had but exercised the same power that was exercised by all parties engaged in war. In this he had only followed the example of Napoleon, who said: "Since whenever you weaken your enemy, he does not find you." That the Constitution of the United States shall not now guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government. [Applause.] We come with the Constitution, and insist upon the enforcement of its guarantees, and we demand of the United States, in the name of a bleeding country and a violated Constitution, a republican form of government, and, in doing that, we demand that the rebellion shall be put down. [Applause.] Great complaint has been made about the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus. Well, there is one thing clear, that somebody has the right or the power to suspend it, and that it can be done in time of rebellion. There is another thing that is admirably right—that there are great many in the land who ought to be arrested, and that the writ ought to be suspended. And small we will do to prevent this. We will have to call out the militia, and send them forth to strike wherever a Rebeld could be found. [Applause.] The man who loved his party better than he loved his country will be willing to put steel toes on rebels, and send them forth to strike wherever a Rebeld could be found. [Great applause.] The country could not be saved by a party; it was to be saved by bullets, bayonets, and the whole North united. There was no hope for it in any other way. [Applause.] We come with the Constitution, and insist upon the enforcement of its guarantees, and we demand of the United States, in the name of a bleeding country and a violated Constitution, a republican form of government, and, in doing that, we demand that the rebellion shall be put down. [Applause.]

promised! Armistice! Compromise! Armistice! Are we prepared for this? Why, the very instant you talk about compromise, you repudiate the idea of preserving the existence of the Government; the very instant you talk about compromise with traitors [Applause]; the very instant you propose an armistice, or make one, they take it as a concession, and in settling the question by compromise or by prop- sing armistice, but you acknowledge the rebellion. Yes, Compromise! Compromise! I repeat this term many times when I am talking upon that subject—Compromise! Who are we called upon to compromise with? Those stand the traitor, the rebel, in the violated Constitution, with arms in his hands, the bayonet at your bosom, the sword at your throat, and talk about compromise! This talk about compromise is a mere pretext. When you talk about compromises, are you going to the Southern states, which are now under the control of traitors? If you compromise with them and take their necks out of the halter and reinstate them, what will you do with the down-trodden Union men who are struggling for liberty? We of Tennessee do not come here to demand your sympathy, but we come here to demand our constitutional rights. [Applause.] When we turn to the great charter of human freedom, the Constitution, what do you find? That the Constitution of the United States shall not now guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government. [Applause.] We come with the Constitution, and insist upon the enforcement of its guarantees, and we demand of the United States, in the name of a bleeding country and a violated Constitution, a republican form of government, and, in doing that, we demand that the rebellion shall be put down. [Applause.]

The vast resources of wealth, the commercial and manufacturing interests of New-York at the present time, are but the promise of what they will be in the future. To New-York City the General Government looks, not only for loans of money to carry on a great war, but to her shipyards and manufacturers for the sudden creation of a navy; for clothing, guns, carriages and all the material of war for a great army, while from her dense population that army is most speedily recruited.

While the knowledge of these gives confidence to ourselves, it also has the effect to excite the cupidity of others; and we may reasonably expect, in case of any ill-understanding with foreign nations, either that knowing our inefficient preparations for want of foresight to defend ourselves against assault, we shall be precipitated into a war, or that the enemy might be supplied with means to defend. If we wished to resist the encroachments of a hostile fleet into our harbor by rams, iron-clads, or broadsides, we would wish to have a fleet of iron-clads, France and England have these now, and they can cross the Atlantic with them, and even the Confederates may soon be supplied with them. In case of such a formidable assault, what could we do? We may say we will close our harbor by "rafts," or by a "stone fleet." If this was practicable it is not to be thought of, for our commerce is the source of our wealth and prosperity, and we would not ourselves destroy what we earnestly wish to devise means to defend. If we wished to resist the entrance of a hostile fleet into our harbor by rams, iron-clads, or broadsides, we would wish to have a fleet of iron-clads, France and England have these now, and they can cross the Atlantic with them, and even the Confederates may soon be supplied with them. In case of such a formidable assault, what could we do? We may say we will close our harbor by "rafts," or by a "stone fleet." If this was practicable it is not to be thought of, for our commerce is the source of our wealth and prosperity, and we would not ourselves destroy what we earnestly wish to devise means to defend. If we wished to resist the entrance of a hostile fleet into our harbor by rams, iron-clads, or broadsides, we would wish to have a fleet of iron-clads, France and England have these now, and they can cross the Atlantic with them, and even the Confederates may soon be supplied with them. In case of such a formidable assault, what could we do? We may say we will close our harbor by "rafts," or by a "stone fleet."

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deliberately to capture wealth, but gives them the usual chances of escape from death in battle, about a thousand to one, and the glory of the achievement, in addition to other incitements, will inspire them to advance.

While I consider it impolitic to dampen the military ardor of our people, I consider it the peculiar province of the representatives of a great commercial and manufacturing community to prepare with deliberation such means of defense, if possible, as will give positive protection against all possible means of assault; "for an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."

The merchant who intrusts his whole capital to the mercy of the waves would soon be without credits, if it were not insured.

The civil engineer who would place upon a foundation, the strength of which he had crudely guessed at, but had not estimated from actual data so carefully as to place its durability beyond contingency, would soon find himself without employment.

In all branches of private industry a nervous anxiety is continually shown by practitioners to arrive at that nice adaptation of means to ends that is at least equal to giving certainty to the result; while the almost universal practice of the art of war, upon which liberty, more valuable than life itself, is dependent, is always asserted to be a lottery, and the fate of battles uncertain. While the votaries of art and science are making their efforts to arrive at certain results, and to inspire confidence, the business of war has hitherto been conducted by men whose field of labor is exclusive, and whose selfish interests are best observed by uncertainty of result. So "OFFENSE" and "DEFENSE" are alternately set before us as having the advantage, while the plan of constructing the forts sufficiently near to each other, leathern the channel, each ship of a fleet must run the gauntlet, and receive at least a shot from each gun. Such forts as I propose in this channel, too, have the advantage that they cannot be surprised by infantry or mined by engineers, as the plan is arranged so they cannot be blown up by powder, and they cannot be run down by rams, being protected by loose rubble deposited about their base, making shoal water on all sides of them, I consider them impreg